THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b) The present Government wishes to give a thrust to genuine decentralisation form the Centre to the States and from States to districts and below, with responsibilities being matched by adequate resources at each level.

(c) Work in formulating the Eighth Five Year Plan is in progress. It is not possible to indicate precisely at this stage a date for finalisation of implementation.

Changes in the Atomic Energy policy

166. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Atomic Energy policy, pursued by the previous Government has been reviewed by the new Government and found to be appropriate to the needs of the country; and

(b) if not, what changes are being contemplated therein by the present Government?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b) The atomic energy policy of the country is a well conceived national policy and has seved the country's interests well. Government propose to continue the present policy.

Resentment against setting up Central University in Barak Valley in Assam

167. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Assam Government have expressed against establishment of the Central University in Barak Valley under the Assam University Act, 1989 passed by Parliament in May-June 1989; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are contemplating to implement the provisions of the said Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Drop out rate at primary and high schools levels

168. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the drop out rate of primary and high schools levels in the country among the students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and girls , separately, as on 30th November, 1989; and

(b) what steps are being taken to check the drop out rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) According to the latest information available with the Ministry, drop out rate at Primary (Class I-V), Middle (Class I-VIII) and High School (Class I-X) for 1986-87 is as follows:

	Girls	SC	ST
Class I—V	51·9	50·2	64.3
Class I—III	70·0	67·8	80·7
Class I—X	81·3	79·0	87·2